

Message Text

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 2302

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TW

SUBJECT: SPECIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING: CCK TAKES CONTROL

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: THERE WERE NO SURPRISES IN THE KUOMINTANG CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 28, 1975, THE COMMITTEE PASSED RESOLUTIONS RETAINING THE LATE PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK AS TSUNG TSAI (DIRECTOR-GENERAL) OF THE PARTY, ELECTING PREMIER CHIANG CHING-KUO AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE (I.E., NEW HEAD OF THE PARTY), ADOPTING A MANIFESTO (REPORTED SEPTEL) AND SENDING A GROUP OF SENIOR PARTY OFFICIALS TO EXTEND CONDOLENCES TO MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK ON BEHALF OF THE PARTY. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S ACTIONS FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST COMPLETE THE SUCCESSION PROCESS AND LEAVE PREMIER CHIANG AS THE UNCHALLENGED LEADER OF THE ROC. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SPECIAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 28 APPARENTLY WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN AND CONFIRMED TO ANY WHO

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MIGHT HAVE HAD DOUBTS THAT THE PREMIER IS FIRMLY IN CONTROL.

FOLLOWING THE PRECEDENT SET IN 1925 WHEN SUN YAT-SEN DIED AND WAS RETAINED AS TSUNGLI (PRESIDENT) OF THE KUOMINGTANG, CHIANG KAI-SHEK WAS ALSO RETAINED AS TSUNG TSAI (DIRECTOR-GENERAL) OF THE PARTY. IN ORDER TO CLEAN UP ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS AND TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY CCK AS THE NEW PARTY LEADER, A NEW POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE WAS CREATED AND THE PREMIER WAS ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. OUR READING OF THE PARTY CONSTITUTION CASTS SOME DOUBT ON THE LEGALITY OF THIS ACTION BY THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE EVEN THOUGH IT RUNS THE KMT WHEN THE PARTY CONGRESS IS NOT IN SESSION. WE ASSUME THAT THIS ACTION WILL BE CONFIRMED AT A LATER DATE WHEN A PARTY CONGRESS IS HELD.

4. THE MANIFESTO WHICH WAS ADOPTED BROKE NO NEW GROUND AND FOLLOWED THE LINE OF RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS (SEE SEPTTEL). THE DISPATCH OF A CONDOLENCE COMMITTEE TO CALL ON MADAME CHIANG WAS BOTH AN APPROPRIATE GESTURE AND A DISPLAY OF THE ESTEEM IN WHICH SHE IS STILL HELD BY PARTY MEMBERS.

5. THE ONLY DEVIANT NOTE DURING THE MEETING WAS THE INTRODUCTION BY CHENG TSANG-PO, A MEMBER OF THE KMT CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, OF A THREE-POINT PROPOSAL TO (A) RESTORE KMT MEMBERSHIP TO THOSE WHO HAD LOST THEIR MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION BUT HAVE STILL REMAINED LOYAL TO THE PARTY; (B) PERMIT KMT MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT REGISTERED WITH THE PARTY (SINCE COMING TO TAIWAN AFTER THE FALL OF THE MAINLAND) TO RE-REGISTER; AND (C) EXPAND THE RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THE PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS REFERRED TO THE KMT CENTRAL STANDING COMMITTEE FOR STUDY AND DISPOSITION.

6. THE BUILD-UP OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN THE PRESS AND TV OVER THE PAST WEEK GAVE ON THE IMPRESSION OF BEING A SPECTATOR AT A WELL-RUN "MEDIA HAPPENING". THE PREMIER APPEARED FIRMLY IN CONTROL AS "SORROW" OVER THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT CHIANG WAS GRADUALLY "TRANSFORMED INTO STRENGTH" AS THE NEW LEADER (ALREADY WAITING IN THE WINGS) CONFIDENTIAL

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MOVED TO CENTER STAGE. IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE MEETING, LOCAL PAPERS HAD COME OUT CLEARLY URGING THE PARTY TO SELECT CCK AS THE NEW LEADER AND RESOLUTIONS TO THIS EFFECT WERE SUPPORTED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING. NEEDLESS TO SAY THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.

7. LOCAL NEWS MEDIA GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE EVENT--

INCLUDING TELEVISION'S SLOW PAN OF THE ASSEMBLED DELEGATES
SO ALL COULD SEE THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS. FOLLOWING THE
ELECTION OF THE PREMIER AS CHAIRMAN, STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT
APPEARED FROM ALL QUARTERS OF THE LOCAL POPULATION: FROM
COLLEGE YOUTH TO AGING FARMERS, FROM INDEPENDENT
POLITICIANS TO THE YOUNG CHINA PARTY AND THE DEMOCRATIC
SOCIALIST PARTY. IN SUM, ONE IS LEFT WITH THE OVERALL
IMPRESSION THAT THE PROGRAM WENT AS PLANNED, THE PREMIER
IS CLEARLY NUMBER ONE, AND THE ROC CAN NOW GET DOWN
TO BUSINESS.
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